



Rochester's Committee on Urban Design & Environment · 2122 Campus Drive SE, Suite 100 · Rochester, MN 55904

The Committee on Urban Design and Environment (CUDE) met at 11:30 AM on Thursday, October 15, 2009 in Room 320 City Hall, Rochester, MN.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandi Goslee, Jim Judisch, Stephan Lewis, Lindsey Meek, Roger Nelson, Dave Petersen, Terry Spaeth, Jean Weathers-Lowin

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dick Abraham, Nora Dooley, Gail Eadie, Mark Engel, Mark Jasmin, Zach Thaler,

OTHERS PRESENT

Terry Meyer, Sean Allen, Chris Flood, Mike Wojcik

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

The meeting started at 11:40 without a quorum. A quorum was reached at 11:45.

Mr. Lewis motion/Ms. Meek second to approve the August minutes. Unanimous approval.

Referral Notices

None

Notes of Appreciation

Councilwoman Means nominated a house in Elton Hills for their landscaping – 2709 4th Ave NW; check it out for the next meeting. Mr. Lewis took some photos of the TH 52 landscaping.

Possible Bylaws Amendment

Ms. Goslee stated that the City's Ethics Board has reached an opinion that members of the City Council or any City boards and commissions may not vote on a quasi-judicial item if they have given their opinion on that subject in another public venue. Concerns were raised that this opinion might put CUDE's City Planning and Zoning Commission representative in a tight spot at many CUDE meetings (it is not felt that this would significantly impact the City Park Board representative as the Park Board typically does not make quasi-judicial decisions). A memo was sent to the City Planning and Zoning Commission (CPZC) and the City Parks and Recreation Director explaining the Ethics Board opinion, its potential impact on CUDE membership, and asking whether CUDE's bylaws should be changed to no longer have representatives from those bodies serve on CUDE. The CPZC requested that we no longer have a CPZC rep on CUDE as too many items that come before CUDE may later come to the CPZC. The Parks and Recreation Director has not yet weighed in on this.

A number of attendees voiced concern about this opinion. Mr. Judisch, therefore, suggested we invite the City Attorney to the November meeting to explain in more detail what led to this opinion and its potential impact on CUDE. After that presentation, CUDE will determine whether to go ahead with a bylaws amendment or not. The CPZC has opted to not have their representative attend CUDE meetings until this issue has been resolved.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Cascade Creek Redevelopment Project

Sean Allen and Chris Flood (First Homes/Rochester Area Foundation) gave a presentation on a proposed redevelopment project for property located at the corner of 6th Ave NW and Civic Center Drive. They began with an explanation of the history of infill development/redevelopment in the Kutzky Park neighborhood; the neighborhood is supportive of form-based development in their area.

The project consists of eleven parcels, an alley, and City land. First Homes has been working for years to acquire these properties. They have some funding sources lined up and are applying for State tax credits. The project would include apartments, townhomes, a day care, and possibly additional commercial use. Rain gardens would also be constructed on site. If the tax credits are issued in February, construction would likely begin in Fall 2010.

First Homes hopes that this project would set the tone for other redevelopment in the neighborhood. The neighborhood also hopes that this would stop the proliferation of parking lots in their area.

Other

Mr. Wojcik asked CUDE to put their thinking caps on and use their resources to come up with some legitimate strategies that work to combat urban blight.

Adjourn – 1:00. Next meeting will be at 11:30 on November 19th in Room 320 City Hall.